

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:SEWARD:TL

22670 7/20/73

APPROVED BY NEA: ALATHERTON, JR.

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ISA/SA - COL. BR GGS

DOD/ISA - GEN. SUMNER

S/S-O SE FRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T STATE 143867

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LE, IR

REF: TEHRAN 5010, TEHRAN 5019

SUBJECT: LEBANESE REQUEST FOR ARMS FROM IRAN

1. WE CONTINUE TO VIEW AS HELPFUL IRANIAN RESPONSIVENESS TO LEBANESE ARMS REQUESTS, PARTICULARLY WHERE GOI MIGHT MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO LEBANESE SECURITY SOONER OR ON MORE FAVORABLE TERMS THAN USG ABLE TO DO. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, WE ARE UNABLE TO BE FORTHCOMING IN REPLACING EITHER M-47 OR 155 MM TOWED GUNS SHOULD GOI DECIDE ON THEIR SALE. DEFENSE ADVISES 155 MM TOWED HOWITZERS ARE NOT IN PRODUCTION AND COULD NOT BE DIVERTED FROM U.S. ARMY ASSETS WITHOUT DISRUPTION TO UNIT READINESS. REGARDING TANKS, THERE ARE NO M-47'S REMAINING IN U.S.

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INVENTORIES. WE COULD PROVIDE PARTIALLY REHABILITATED

M-48A1'S AT APPROXIMATELY \$42,700 WITHIN 24 TO 36 MONTHS;
HOWEVER, WE REALIZE THIS MODEL WOULD PROBABLY BE UNACCEPT-
ABLE TO IRAN.

2. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE FURTHER
DETAILS ON IRANIAN PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE PRICES, CREDIT
TERMS, IF ANY, AND DELIVERY TIMES WHICH IRAN MIGHT OFFER
LEBANESE. WE ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHETHER MATERIEL IN
QUESTION WAS SUPPLIED TO IRAN UNDER MAP OR FMS IN ORDER
TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS CONCERNING THIRD
COUNTRY TRANSFER.

3. BY SEPARATE TELEGRAMS DOD HAS FURNISHED US DEFENSE
ATTACHE IN BEIRUT WITH PRICE, AVAILABILITY, AND SUIT-
ABILITY COMMENTS ON M-60A1 TANKS, 155 MM SELF-PROPELLED
HOWITZERS, AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR DISCUSSION WITH
LEBANESE ARMY. WE WOULD PREFER TO GET LEBANESE REACTION
TO OUR SUGGESTIONS BEFORE UNDERWRITING A THIRD COUNTRY
TRANSFER AS OUTLINED REFTELS.

4. REQUEST YOU ADVISE GOI OF ABOVE. IF GOI IN FACT
DECIDES TO SELL EQUIPMENT TO GOL WE WISH TO HAVE OPPOR-
TUNITY TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC SALES IN LIGHT OF ITS TERMS
AND GOL REACTION TO U.S. PROPOSALS BEFORE ACTUAL OFFER
IS MADE TO GOL. RUSH

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NNN

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